

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 EUR-12 ACDA-07 TRSE-00 SAJ-01

OMB-01 A-01 SY-05 OPR-02 OC-05 CCO-00 /084 W

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O 070930Z APR 76

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5436

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 622

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, CH

SUBJECT: SITUATION IN TIEN AN MEN

REF: PEKING 611

1. SITUATION AS OF 1700 HOURS LOCAL APRIL 7. SINCE SOMETIME BETWEEN 0200 AND 0800 HOURS APRIL 7 TIEN AN MEN SQUARE HAS BEEN SEALED OFF BY UNARMED PUBLIC SECURITY BUREAU AND PLA. CHANGAN AVENUE, NORTH OF THE SQUARE, HAS REMAINED OPEN TO ALL TRAFFIC. STREETS ON EITHER SIDE OF THE SQUARE CONNECTING CHANGAN AVENUE WITH ANTI-IMPERIALISM STREET ON THE SOUTH HAVE BEEN OPEN TO CARS AND TRUCKS BUT CLOSED TO CYCLISTS AND PEDESTRIANS. CLEANUP CREWS HAVE BEEN WORKING IN THIS AREA MOST OF THE DAY. THE ONE WREATH LEFT AT THE MARTYRS'S MONUMENT THE DAY BEFORE, AND S SMALL WHITE CLOTH WITH AN INSCRIPTION AND A PICTURE OF CHOU THAT A WESTERN JOURNALIST HAD SEEN AT THE MONUMENT AROUND 2230 THE NIGHT BEFORE, WERE REMOVED OVERNIGHT.

2. THERE ARE INDICATIONS OF STILL SIZEABLE SECURITY FORCES ON HAND, THOUGH MOSTLY OUT OF SIGNT, IN THE IMMEDIATE VICINITY OF THE SQUARE, INCLUDING MILITIA IN THE IMPERIAL CITY COMPLEX.

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3. WESTERN JOURNALISTS AND SOME OTHER WESTERN OBSERVERS HAVE NOTICED THAT AMONG THE MANY DOZENS OF TRUCKS BEING USED SINCE APRIL 5 TO TRANSPORT MILITIA THERE ARE A FEW FROM OUTSIDE PEKING--SPECIFICALLY, ON THE BASIS OF THE PREFIX NUMBERS (PARENTHEZIZED HEREAFTER) ON THE CIVILIAN LICENSE PLATES, FROM TIENSIN (29), SHANTUNG(14), HOPEH (2), HEILUNGKAING (5) AND INNER MONGOLIA (3). THE LAST TWO PROVINCIAL IDENTIFICATIONS, CORRESPONDING TO THE PREFIXES (5) AND (3), ARE TENTATIVE. ONE SOURCE WHO HAS TAKEN SOME CARE TO ALLOW FOR DOUBLE-COUNTING BELIEVES THERE ARE MORE TRUCKS FROM SHANTUNG AND TIENSIN THAN FROM THE OTHER OUTSIDE PLACES. WE LEAVE IT AS AN OPEN QUESTION WHETHER OR NOT IN SOME CASES THESE TRUCKS ARE TO BE TAKEN AS EVIDENCE THAT MILITIA HAVE BEEN BROUGHT IN FROM OTHER AREAS.

3. ABOUT TWENTY RED FLAG SEDANS WERE PARKED NEAR THE NORTH ENTRANCE OF THE GREAT HALL OF THE PEOPLE AT 1330 HOURS APRIL 7. THIS PROBABLY INDICATES THAT A LEADERSHIP MEETING WAS IN PROGRESS.
THOMAS

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